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LONG HITS SCARCE IN CUBA

Batters Must Drive the Ball Against a Half a Gale of Wind, Says Dan Murphy—Cuban Pitchers are Weak-est Part of the Island Teams.

Ball playing in half a gale of wind that is always against the batter and kills the hard-hit ball so that long drives are a scarcity, is one of the experiences of playing the national game in Cuba, according to Dan Murphy, who has recently returned from the trip that the Philadelphia Athletics made to the island. No matter how hard the sluggers bang the leather, there is always that killing wind that takes all the distance out of the hits and the long drives that de-liver the fans the diamonds of the States are almost wholly missing.

But what works against the batter is a help to the fielders, and when the ball is driven high to the outfield it comes floating down into the fielders' glove as soft as a feather. Fast line drives, too, are robbed of much of their force and turned into comparatively easy chances.

Another element that enters into the game and plays an important part is the lack of rain, leaving the surface of the diamond dry and hard, so that the cover of the ball is quickly roughed up and all the life of the spheroid gone. The Cubans stop the game for rain, but the teams, but are weak on pitchers at 84.

What impressed Umpire Billy Evans, who spent some time on the island, was the way the games are handled from the police standpoint. In no city in the United States, he says, is a ball park so well policed as in Havana. On the big day of the week, Sunday, when the crowd always numbers from 15,000 to 20,000 persons, at least 200 policemen are on hand to maintain order. Of the 200 or more present come 50 of them are mounted on the finest horses. The fans live in awe of the police, and rarely, if ever, are the guardians of the peace called upon to quell any disturbances.

After every contest even if the game has progressed as quietly as a funeral, the police always escort the visiting team to a place of safety, some distance from the park and down the way to the heart of the city. Visiting players from the States receive every attention, and the American team is as safe, if not safer, than in some of the cities in which they are accus-tomed to playing during the regular season.

In many ways the Cuban method of conducting the games differs materi-ally from those in the States. In the first place, the players' benches, in-stead of being on opposite sides of the field, are located within fifteen feet of each other. Over each bench is a heavy canvas canopy to protect the players from the sun. To the left of the main section of the grandstand is erected a small private stand or box to accom-modate about eight or ten persons. This box is always reserved for the leading police officials. Directly in front of the grandstand are three rows of benches, a series of benches that will hold about 125 or 150 men. These benches are for the police, and are always taken to capacity. The benches are so built that they do not interfere in any way with the view of the spectators in the stands or bleachers. On the extreme left and right field are stationed some forty or fifty mounted police. I've re-ally seen more policemen at a game than I've seen during the entire season at home. Drawn up just back of the grandstand are two patrol wagons for immediate use in case anything should happen.

In the center of the grandstand is another private box, which is reserved for the leading officials of the Cuban

baseball league. Hanging in the box is a good sized bell, of which the pres-ident or someone appointed by him, is official ringer. There are many uses to which this bell is put, some of which are decidedly unique. The prac-tice periods are started and ended by the clang of the bell, just the same as in the States. At the opening of the ninth inning the bell is sounded twice to notify the fans that the last inning is about to begin. It is relative to the arguments and disputes, however, that the bell plays an important part. As is natural in all games, every now and then some decision is made that causes more or less criticism. The president of the league is sole judge as to how far the participants may go in their complaints. When he believes the game has been delayed long enough he rings the bell sharply three times. This is a note of warning, and which the players invariably give heed. Us-ually at the sound of three bells the players drop the argument and hasten back to their positions. If perchance some player is so stubborn that he fails to take warning, unless he re-sumes his position inside of a minute, he is given a ride to the station house. From the chief of police, the reason why the best of order is always maintained on the Cuban diamonds.

Manager League's Team Defeats South-bridge.
Manager League's Jewett City Colts made a big showing Monday night at baseball, when they put up 400 in the Southbridge game. By the score of 21 to 12-2. Jodoin, the mas-ter, proved himself able to take care of the left guard, and the rest of the team played a strong game, casing the spleen when they cared to. The line-ups:

Jewett City—Jodoin If. Keach Jr. Dugan c. A. L'Heureux lg. F. L'Heu-roux rg.
Southbridge—Oleford If. Hansen rf. Williams c. Murphy lg. Water-rg.
The summary: Baskets from floor, Jodoin 3, Keach 6, N. Dupree 1. A. L'Heureux 4, Waters 2, Murphy 4, Williams 2, back Hansen 2, foul tri-ces 3 missed 1. A. L'Heureux caged scorer, C. D. Hoy; timekeeper, B. R. Gardner; three, two 20 minute halves.

Manager League's Team for Monday
night the Thread City Cyclers.

Norwich Independents to Play Groton.
The fame of the Norwich Independ-ents, who made a big reputation the past fall on the football gridiron, is to be continued in another line by a baseball team that Manager Larkie has organized and will take to Groton to-morrow (Thursday) night to play. For his Independents Manager Larkie ex-pects a game in the following week at Groton, and for the 15th he plays Jewett City.

Fast teams take notice that the In-dependents are looking for games, and especially New London, Waterbury and Willimantic. Look over his lineup: Lawlor lf. Silva rg. Capt. Bender c. Younson lf. Younson lf. Reardon and Donahue utility men.

Never Offered to Back Sam Anderson.
Jan. 2, 1911.
Sporting Editor Norwich Bulletin:
Dear Sir:—Owing to the fact that a number of Jack McGraw's friends have approached me in regard to backing Sam Anderson against the Irish Giant in a handicap match, I would like to state through your paper that I never offered to, and it is my

frank opinion that it would be suicide for anybody else to do so.
Respectfully yours,
L. N. DONDERO,
Matchmaker Windham Athletic club.

TURF WINNERS ABROAD.
W. K. Vanderbilt Heads the French List With \$303,760 for the Season.

Philadelphia, Jan. 4.—Comparative-ly little is heard of racing in Germany, whether some of the American horses bought at sales have gone and where the sport seems to be making consid-erable progress. A good deal of money is to be won there. Mr. Fairlie who leads the list of winning owners in England, has \$178,790 to his credit. The chief winner in Germany was the Royal Grand Prix, which accumu-lated \$183,300, and it is to be noted that this sum was \$25,000 or \$30,000 under the total of the previous year. W. K. Vanderbilt in France passes the English aggregate. Coming first in the list, his horses won \$503,760, and for the second year he is the leading owner. What will seem strange to those ac-quainted with the subject is the hand-some amount of money that has been won in France, one owner having reached \$120,000 during the season. In England the most successful owner, M. E. Brumman, has won rather under \$80,000, and in Austria-Hungary B. P. Springer comes next with less than \$70,000.

It might well have been supposed that the Duke of Portland's grand total in 1909, \$282,200, which has secured mainly by the aid of Donovan and Ayrshire, would have stood unap-proached, but it has been surpassed by the aid of J. R. Keene, whose white jacket with blue spots has been a familiar sight, and seen, at somewhat irregular intervals, on the English courses.

AMERICAN'S MARATHON RECORD
Holmer Wins at Edinburgh, Setting New Mark of 2h. 32m. 21s.

Edinburgh, Scotland, Jan. 3.—Hans Holmer, the American, won the pro-fessional marathon at the Powder Hall ground today in the record time of 2 hours, 32 minutes and 21 seconds, defeating the 28 runners of continental and British fame.

Gotch Resigns and Will Back Mah-mout.
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 3.—Frank Gotch, champion wrestler, has resigned his position as referee of the National Wrestling Association, and will back Mah-mout, a former opponent, in his bid for the championship.

Cleveland Through With Niles.
Cleveland, O., Jan. 3.—Harry Niles, utility player, who was purchased by the Cleveland baseball club from the Boston American league club, was spring for \$4,000 and finished the season with a batting average of .312, defeating the 28 runners of continental and British fame.

Japanese Trip for Athletics.
A proposition has been made to take the Athletics to Japan next winter if they win the next world's championship. Backstop, the man-ager who arranged the Cuban ex-pedition, is now considering the offer of certain Japanese fans.

TALES TOLD
AT
THE RINGSIDE
By W. A. Phelon.

WHEN WOLGAST GOT HIS.

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